

**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Applicants: Timothy R. Heindel et al.  
Serial No.: 08/834,777  
Filed: April 3, 1997  
For: PROCESS OF PROVIDING  
MECHANICAL FASTENERS ON  
DISPOSABLE ABSORBENT  
ARTICLES

Docket 11,589.3  
Group: 3308  
Examiner: D. Cho  
Date: February 23, 1998

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GROUP 3300

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner preliminarily amend the specification and claims of the instant application as indicated below. This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to replace the Preliminary Amendment filed April 3, 1997, which was not clear. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his cooperation in this matter.

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**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1-34 as originally filed without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed thereby.

Please prosecute claims 35-51 as originally filed which read as follows:

35. A package of disposable absorbent articles comprising a plurality of said disposable absorbent articles wherein each of said disposable absorbent articles includes an outer cover, a bodyside liner, an absorbent core disposed between said outer cover and said bodyside liner, and at least one mechanical fastener, wherein said at least one mechanical fastener is releasably engaged with said disposable absorbent article to protect said mechanical fastener before said disposable absorbent article is handled by a user.